

**Claims:**

1. A masterbatch which includes:  
  
a chlorinated polyolefin;  
  
an acrylic processing aid;  
  
an acrylic impact modifier; and  
  
at least one dye, pigment or functional additive.
2. A masterbatch according to claim 1 which is substantially free of PVC.
3. A masterbatch according to claim 1 which further includes processing additives, incidental ingredients, fillers and/or impurities.
4. A masterbatch according to claim 1, which further includes one or more additives including calcium oxide (typically present in an amount 4.0 to 6.0% by weight of the masterbatch), calcium stearate (typically present in an amount 1.5 to 6.0% by weight of the masterbatch), chalk (typically present in an amount 0.0 to 30.0% by weight of the masterbatch), a wax, such as amide wax, polyethylene wax oxidised or unoxidised, or montan wax (the wax is preferably present in an amount 0% to 10% by weight of the masterbatch).
5. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin is present in an amount up to about 30% by weight (preferably 25% by weight) of the total weight of the masterbatch.
6. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin includes chlorinated polyester elastomer, chlorinated polyethylene or chlorinate polypropylene.
7. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the chlorine content of the polyolefin is greater than 30.

8. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the crystallinity (DS) of the chlorinated polyolefin may vary from about 0 to about 1.0, (preferably the crystallinity is about 0.7).
9. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the shore A hardness of the chlorinated polyolefin is no more than about 95, (typically no more than about 65).
10. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic processing aid is present in an amount up to about 10% (preferably up to about 5%) by weight of the masterbatch.
11. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic processing aid is a methylmethacrylate based processing aid.
12. A masterbatch according to Claim 11, wherein the methylmethacrylate based processing aid is co-polymerised with ethyl acrylate (BA), Butyl acrylate (BA), Butyl methylacrylate (BMA) or styrene.
13. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the processing aid includes a polymethyl methacrylate based processing aid, (such as the type commercially available as Reamod P220 or Reamod P270).
14. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic impact modifier is present in an amount up to about 30% by weight (preferably up to about 25% by weight) of the masterbatch.
15. A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic impact modifier may be an acrylic/styrene polymer, poly (BA/MMA) or poly (EA/MMA).
16. A multipurpose masterbatch carrier which includes:
  - a chlorinated polyolefin;
  - an acrylic processing aid; and
  - an acrylic impact modifier.

17. A carrier according to claim 16 for use with dyes, pigments, functional additives or the like.
18. An additive for use in PVC processing, which comprises a blend of, a chlorinated polyolefin, an acrylic processing aid and an acrylic impact modifier.
19. A method of manufacturing a masterbatch carrier, which method includes:
  - a) blending at least one chlorinated polyolefin, at least one acrylic processing aid at least one acrylic impact modifier; and
  - b) forming the blend into a shaped body.
20. A method of manufacturing a masterbatch suitable for use in the colouring of PVC, which method includes:
  - a) blending at least one chlorinated polyolefin, at least one acrylic processing aid, at least one acrylic impact modifier and a pigment and/or dye; and
  - b) forming the blend into a shaped body.
21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the blending in step a) is in a high speed high shear mixer.
22. A method according to claim 20, wherein the temperature during step a) raises above ambient temperature, preferably below about 80°C.
23. A method according to claim 22, wherein a process oil is added during step a).
24. A method according to claim 20, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin, the acrylic processing aid and the acrylic impact modifier are all preferably free flowing powders, typically having a particle size of less than about 1200 $\mu$  (preferably less than about 700  $\mu$ ) in diameter.
25. A method according to claim 20, wherein the additives (if present) and the dye and/or pigment typically have a particle size of less than about 1200 $\mu$  in diameter.

26. A method according to claim 23, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin, the acrylic modifier and the process oil (if present) are preblended prior to step a), preferably for up to about 1 minute.

27. A method according to claim 26, wherein the resultant blend of chlorinated polyolefin, acrylic modifier and process oil (if present) is subsequently blended with the remaining components in step a).

28. A method according to claim 20, wherein the blending in step a) may be for up to about 30 minutes, preferably up to about 20 minutes.

29. A method according to claim 20, wherein the forming in step b) is extrusion, preferably using a co-rotating screw extruder.

30. A method according to claim 20, wherein the extrusion temperature may be up to about 190°C, (preferably in the range 125°C to 140°C).

31. A method of colouring PVC, which method includes blending a masterbatch comprising a chlorinated polyolefin, an acrylic processing aid, and at least one dye, pigment or functional additive, with a base PVC material.

32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the masterbatch is blended with the PVC material in a ratio in the range of 1:100 to 1:10 masterbatch to base PVC material.

33. A method according to claim 20, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin and the acrylic modifier are preblended prior to step a), preferably for up to about 1 minute.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the resultant blend of chlorinated polyolefin and acrylic modifier is subsequently blended with the remaining components in step a).